

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 SY-10 OPR-02 AID-20

NIC-01 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINT PINS ELAB MILI

SUBJ: TRANSPORT STRIKE SETTLEMENT MAY BE CLOSE-

MERCHANTS REOPEN SHOPS

REF: SANTIAGO 3901

1. SUMMAYR. GOC NEGOTIATORS AND TRANSPORT UNIONS REACHED AN AGREEMENT AUU 30 WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION TO PRES ALLENDE. MERCHANTS REOPENED DOORS AUG 31 IN "TERMPORARY SUSPENSION" OF THEIR STRIKE WHILE TALKS CONTINUE. MEDICAL STRIKE EXTENDED ANOTHER 48 HOURS. NAVY BEGAN LEGAL ACTION TO STRIP ALTAMIRANO AND GARRETON OF IMMUNITY. ARMY ISSUED BLAND STATEMENT CONCERNING GENERALS MEETING AUG 28-29. END SUMMARY.

2. LAND TRANSPORT CONFEDERATION (RODADO) AND TRANSPORTATION INTERVENTOR GENERAL RAUL CONTRERAS ON AUG 30 REACHED AN AGREEMENT WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY SUBMITTED TO PRES ALLENDE FOR APPROVAL. NEGOTIATORS ARE TO MEET AGAIN TODAY AUG 31, AFTER WHICH, IF GOC REACTION IS POSITIVE, PRESUMABLY ORDERS WILL GO OUT TO RESUME TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES. DETAILS OF AGREEMENT NOT YET AVAILABLE.

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STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER ALL ELEMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION SIDE, I.E.

VILARIN, WILL SETTLE EVEN IF GOVT ACCEPTS.

3. MERCHANTS' ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED STATEMENT AUG 30 THAT THEIR STRIKE WOULD BE "TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED," AND SANTIAGO SHOPS OPENED MORNING AUG 31. RETAIL SHOPKEEPERS LEADER RAFAEL CUMSILLE REPORTED PROMISING TALKS WITH MININTERIOR BRIONES, AND TALKS WILL CONTINUE ON BASIS ACCEPTANCE BY GOVT OF TWO SPECIFIC DEMANDS: RETURN TO OWNERS OF FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS REQUISITIONED IN VALDIVIA, AND "SOLUTION" TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MERCHANTS IN RANCAGUA. MORE GENERAL DEMANDS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY MIN ECONOMY CADEMARTORI, WHO PROMISES RESPONSE BY SEPT 1.

4. FOUR MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS (PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, PHARMACISTS AND NURSES) ANNOUNCED CONTINUATION OF 48 HOURS OF THEIR STRIKE, CHARGING THAT NEW HEALTH MINISTER DR. MARIO LAGOS HERNANDEZ HAS DONE NOTHING TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. MEANWHILE, UP PRESS RAILS AGAINST "MURDERER DOCTORS" WHO LET PATIENTS DIE UNATTENDED. MEDICAL PROFESSION THREATENS EXTEND STRIKE AND WITHDRAW EVEN MATERNITY AND EMERGENCY CARE IF NO PROGRESS MADE.

5. ONLY PUBLIC RESULT OF LONG MEETING OF ARMY GENERALS AUG 28 AND 29 (SANTIAGO 3877) WAS BRIEF STATEMENT ISSUED AUG 30 NOTING THAT GENERALS HAD MET TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND TO ADOPT RELATED MEASURES WHICH PERTAIN TO THE ARMY. SECOND PARAGRAPH GOT DOWN TO CONVENING OF REGULAR PROMOTION BOARD IN LATE SEPTEMBER TO FILL VACANCIES OPENED BY RESIGNATIONS OF GENERAL PRATS, SEPULVEDA AND PICKERING.

6. ADMIRAL MERINO, COMMANDER FIRST NAVAL ZONE WHICH INCLUDES VALPARAISO AND SANTIAGO, INITIATED FORMAL LEGAL ACTION IN HIS CAPACITY

AS HIGHEST NAVY ZONE LEGAL AUTHORITY, PRESENTED TO VALPARAISO COURT OF APPEALS TO STRIP PS SENATOR CARLOS ALTAMIRANO AND MAPU DEPUTY OSCAR GARRETON OF CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITY TO PERMIT CHARGING THEM WITH SUBVERSION OF NAVY (SANTIAGO 3840). NAVY ACTION DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF CONCERN FELT BY CHILEAN MILITARY OVER LEFT EXTREMIST ATTEMPTS POLITICIZE RANKS.

7. SHOTS FIRED INEFFECTIVELY AT CARABINERO GUARD AT CARDINAL SILVA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESIDENCE DURING NIGHT BROUGHT OUTRAGED PROTEST FROM UP PRESS. GUARD FIRED BACK, BUT UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS EXCAPTED, LEAVING SCORE APPARENTLY NOTHING TO NOTHING.

8. SENATE DEFENSE COMMITTEE MET IN LONG SESSION AUG 30 WITH MINDEFENSE LETELIER, THREE MILITARY CINCS, AND OTHERS TO DISCUSS "POLITICAL FACTORS IN THE STABILITY OF MILITARY CAREER." STATEMENT ISSUED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SENATOR BENJAMIN PRADO (PDC)

AFTER MEETING INDICATED MAIN SUBJECT DISCUSSED WAS ROLE OF MILITARY IN CABINET, AND EFFECTS UPON MILITARY INSTITUTIONS. STATEMENT NOTED OPPOSITION CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO PRESTIGE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF MILITARY RESULTING FROM OVER-INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS.

9. DURING WOMENS' DEMONSTRATION AT GENERAL PRATS HOME AUG 21 (SANTIAGO 3742) ARMY CAPTAIN RENE BALLAS SIGLIC RUSHED TO DEFENSE OF HIS WIFE, AND MADE PUBLIC ANTI-UP AND ANTI-PRATS REMARKS. ON AUG 28 HE WAS INVOLUNTARILY RETIRED FROM ARMY. RIGHTIST PRESS TRYING TO MAKE CASE IN SUPPORT OF BALLAS, BUT REST OF PRESS WHICH REPORTED INCIDENT TOOK MORE NEUTRAL STANCE. CASES OF TWO MAJORS SIMILARLY INVOLVED IN WOMENS' DEMONSTRATION STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. SOME CONCERN REPORTED IN ARMY OVER HARSHNESS OF PENALTY, BUT GENERALLY CONCEDED IN ARMY THAT BALLAS OUT-OF-LINE, AND ACTION IS LEGAL. (BALLAS IS SON-IN-LAW OF RETIRED RIGHTIST GENERAL CANALES.)

10 MININTERIOR CARLOS BRIONES IN PRESS CONFERENCE AUG 30 SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED IN UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PDC LEADERS, AND THAT BOTH SHOULD HAVE MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER AND CHILEAN DEMOCRACY. BRIONES FIRMLY CONDEMNED ALL ATTEMPTS AT "SUBERSION" OF MILITARY, DEPLORED CAMPAIGN OF OPPOSITION PRESS AGAINST GOVERNMENT. NOTED THAT WHILE HE HAD LONG BEEN A PS MEMBER HIS CARD HAD "PROBABLY" LAPSED AND IN ANY EVENT HIS ONLY POLITICAL ROLE IS TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT. TONE OF CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF MODERATION AND CONCILIATION.
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